1st November 1932]

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The question is under correspondence with the union through the Commissioner of Excise.

Electricity

Memorandum submitted by the Madras Electric Current Consumers' Association, North Gopalapuram, Madras.

* 236 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the requests contained in the memorandum submitted to the Government by the Madras Electric Current Consumers' Association, North Gopalapuram, Madras, and the action, if any, taken by the Government thereon?

A.—The memorandum submitted by the Association contains the following requests:—

(1) The charge per unit of energy supplied, the hire for meter, charges for reconnexion and replacing consumers' fuses and the minimum monthly charge are high and should be reduced.

(2) The Supply Corporation should be asked to pay interest on the deposits taken from the consumers.

(3) An Advisory Council of a representative character should be formed to facilitate exchange of views between the consumers and the Supply agency.

(4) The rates that may be settled now should be subject to further revision after three years.

The representation is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. F. BIRLEY:—"In considering the question, will the Government be pleased to take into account that the Supply Corporation has to pay increased income-tax, increased customs duty on machinery and stores as well as 15 per cent surcharge of the rail-freight on their coal?".

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"All these things will be considered."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Will the Government be pleased to take into consideration the fact that the cost of materials has considerably decreased while settling this question?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"That will also be taken notice of. All things that are of help to the Government in coming to a conclusion will be taken into consideration."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know whether the Government have taken into consideration the different points raised in the memorandum and decided upon them?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Nothing has been done."